

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-6 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; the abstract was objected to; and Claim 2 was objected to. However, Claims 1-6 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-6 were allowed.

Regarding the objections to the specification and abstract, the specification has been amended to include the proper section headings, and a new abstract has been added in light of the comments stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objections to the specification and abstract be withdrawn.

In addition, regarding the objection to Claim 2, it is respectfully submitted Claim 2 does not contain the reference numeral 2, however, the line references suggest the objection is directed to Claim 1. In any event, the claims have been amended simply to remove the reference numerals and characters, and to better conform to U.S. claim drafting practice. Hence, no new matter is added thereby. Further, it is respectfully requested the objection to Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Application No. 10/069,942
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2003

In light of the amendments and discussion presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and thus the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early action favorable to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

EHK/GS:mda
I:\ATTY\GS\225\220328\AME.DOC